



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**STATEMENT FROM SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS ON THE CALIFORNIA SCIENCE MUSEUM'S SELECTION TO RECEIVE SPACE SHUTTLE ENDEAVOUR**

Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas today congratulated the California Science Center on the announcement that it will become the final home to the Space Shuttle Endeavour. The Science Center, which vied with museums across the country to house one of four orbiter vehicles being decommissioned by NASA, is one of the cultural jewels of the Second District and among the most popular museums in the state.

The orbiter, which is still in use, ultimately will join other artifacts at the Science Center devoted to air and space exploration.

“But Endeavour is special,” Supervisor Ridley-Thomas said. “It is the embodiment of American perseverance, of tenacity and of hope. The first African-American woman to travel in space, Astronaut Mae Jameson, orbited the earth in Endeavour, and in doing so, affirmed that the American Dream has no limits or bounds.

“And on its final mission later this month, Astronaut Mark Kelly, the husband of Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, will raise the nation’s spirits when, with his recovering wife by his side before liftoff, he pilots the shuttle on its last flight.”

The Supervisor added: “So we celebrate this announcement. Not only will the Shuttle offer outstanding educational opportunities for the entire community, it will inspire generations of children to reach for the stars.”